

# ALTERITY

SIX

GENEVIEVE ROBERTSON

WRACK ZONE



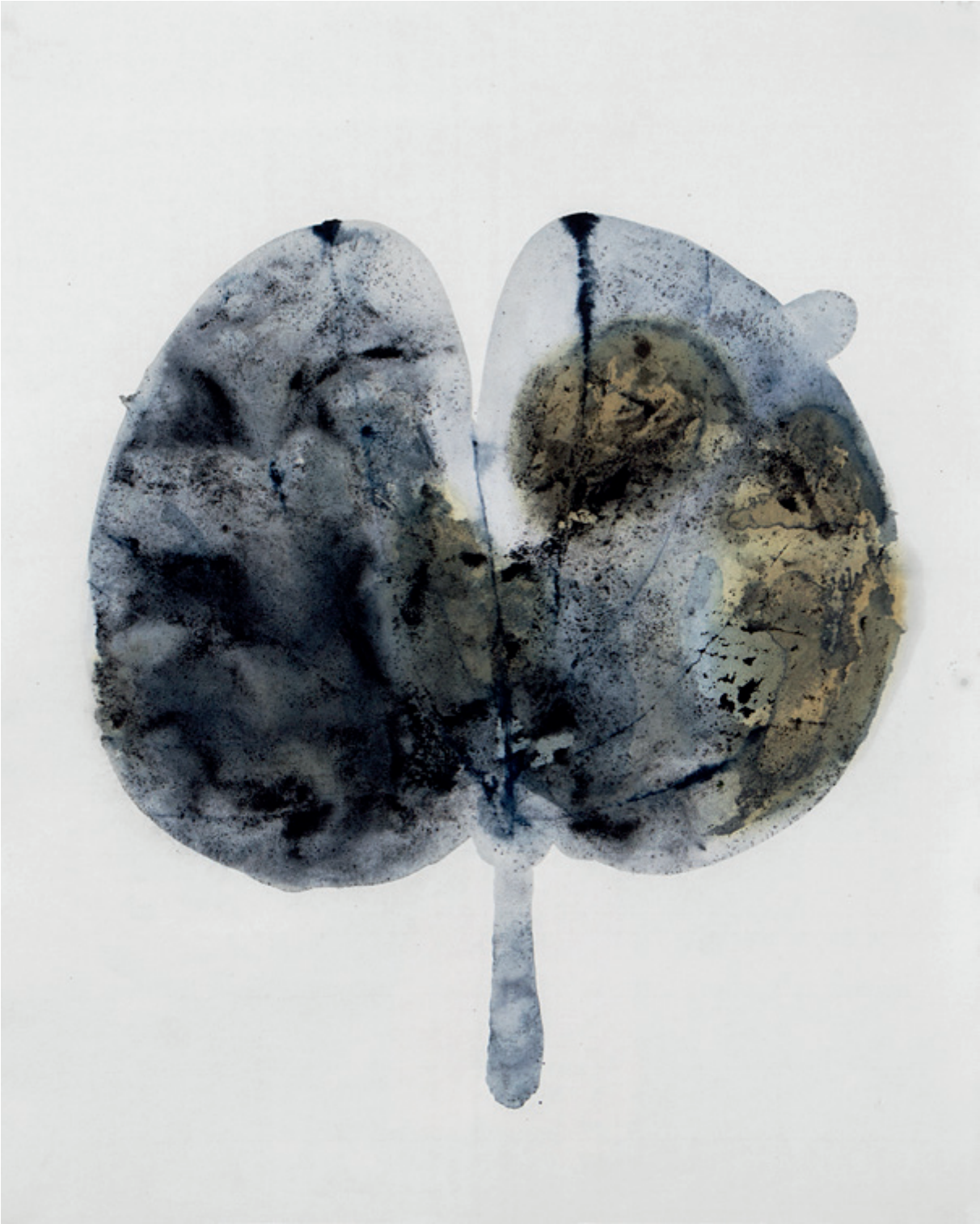
**WRACK ZONE**



The drawings presented here comprise a selection from a series, entitled **Language for the Wrack Zone**, that explores the shoreline as a site for formal, material and environmental enquiry. The wrack zone is a site of transition; it is the collection of material at the high tide mark on the beach, a vibrating line that traces an ever-shifting sea level, and both ecologic and economic systems of exchange. **Language for the Wrack Zone** maps this transitory space, suggesting amorphous forms that exist between biology and geology, waste and treasure, petrification and liveliness, emergence and decay. Produced using found seawater, bitumen and gouache, the series explores the wrack zone as both a life-producing site of biological development, and a site of refuse where material remains of a global petroleum trade wash up, changed through extreme conditions.

Planktonic life is found largely at the surface of the ocean and produces most of the earth's oxygen. In primordial history, zooplankton and phytoplankton thrived in shallow seas, their decomposed bodies producing the fossil fuel deposits we extract today. In these works, the shoreline is imagined in relation to geologic time. A continual layering and folding process: prehistoric creatures end up in the form of plastic umbrella handles on contemporary beaches, living plankton are smothered by their own ancestors in the form of spilled bitumen. These materials and interactions will be added to the fossil record as evidence of our time. A tangled skipping rope, an encrusted tampon case, a shredded beer can, a dead sea urchin; when once we recorded limitless findings in taxonomic drawings, how might one now draw out a taxonomy of limitless loss?











































**Alterity / Six**

Genevieve Robertson : Wrack Zone

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Artwork & text © Genevieve Robertson

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The Centre for Alterity Studies is a resource for the work of an international network of artists and researchers with interests in non-human otherness, encompassing animal, plant and mineral alterity.

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